

IN HONOR OF MIKE HURST

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, as we near the end of this session of Congress, I see the end of the loyal service of my legislative director and counsel, Mike Hurst. He leaves my office in October to become an Assistant United States Attorney in Mississippi. Today I make these remarks to honor Mike's service and to recognize the challenges we faced together as he now embarks on this new opportunity.

It was August 2003 when Mike Hurst first joined my team. After graduating from Newton County Academy as the valedictorian in 1993, he attended East Central Community College on a basketball scholarship where he earned an Associates of Arts degree. He was the student body association president and "Mr. ECCC." He went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science at Millsaps College in 1997 where he was recognized for his academic achievements and earned a law degree from George Washington University Law School in 2000. After working in the private sector for a few years at Troutman Sanders, Mike turned to public service as majority staff counsel for the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on the Constitution.

Mike joined my staff as legislative director and counsel and led my staff and committee work on telecommunications, transportation, and energy issues including the House-passed Communications Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement Act of 2006 and Mississippi specific language in the Satellite Home Viewer Extension and Reauthorization Act of 2004. He served as my representative on the conference committees for the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. Following Hurricane Katrina, he assisted me in drafting and passing into law—in less than a month—the Local Community Recovery Act of 2006. He also played an integral part in drafting the Housing Opportunities and Mitigating Emergencies Act of 2005, which served as the model for Mississippi's post-Katrina housing initiative implemented through community development block grants.

Mike is a son of Newton County who grew up in what we affectionately call Hurstville, a "suburb" of the town of Hickory, population 512. His father Mike operates Mike Hurst Trucking and his mother Lucy is an assistant district engineer for the Mississippi Department of Transportation. I know they, along with his sister Aime'e Hurst Lang, are proud of Mike.

Now Mike, his wife Celeste and their children Anna Reagan, Amelia, Asa with another on the way, have returned home to Mississippi. Our office will miss his experience, knowledge, and skills, but Mississippi and our Nation will continue to benefit from his service as an assistant United States attorney.

Mike Hurst leaves a formative mark on the shape and operation of my office. We will miss his good nature, humor, and dedication to his work. But I thank him for his service to this office and to Mississippi.

HONORING THE SAFETY RECORD
OF THE UTILITIES DISTRICT OF
WESTERN INDIANA REMC**HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Utilities District of Western Indiana Rural Electric Membership Corporation (REMC) for its remarkable safety record, specifically working more than 750,000 hours without a lost-time accident.

Since its incorporation some seventy years ago, UDWI REMC has focused on its core mission of providing reliable and affordable power to its member consumers. The electric cooperative was formed to serve southwestern Indiana residents in 1936 when most of our nation's rural homes and farms were without the benefits of electric power.

Today, UDWI REMC delivers power, services and energy solutions to nearly 19,000 homes, businesses and farms in Indiana's Greene, Clay, Daviess, Knox, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Owen, Putnam, Sullivan and Vigo counties. Through its efforts, the Bloomfield-based cooperative has improved the quality of life for thousands of Hoosiers.

Ensuring reliable electric distribution is a vital job that requires dedication, skill and safe work practices. Electricity provides light, heat, cooling, and comfort, and power for labor-saving conveniences and electronics along with life-saving benefits. Yet electricity demands proper respects and attention. UDWI REMC's 49 employees have demonstrated their commitment to safe work practices by compiling an exceptional safety record, working from February 24, 1998 to August 10, 2006 without a lost-time accident.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the efforts and cooperation as demonstrated by UDWI REMC that our country's rural communities enjoy the benefits of clean, safe electricity. We take great pride in commending UDWI REMC General Manager Roger Davis, the cooperative's employees, and Board of Directors on a job done well—and safely—for the past 8 years. Thanks to these men and women, and others like them, the future is bright in southwestern Indiana.

**DARFUR PEACE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2006

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I strongly support the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act. This bill demonstrates the strong bipartisan commitment of Congress to address to the terrible crisis in Sudan.

Day after day, month after month, we have watched the situation in Darfur deteriorate before our eyes. The genocide occurring there is a clear example and tragic reminder that atrocities still exist in the world today.

This bill sends a clear message that the United States and the entire global community must do more to intervene in this catastrophe.

It will expand our ability to support peacekeeping operations in the region and will hold accountable those responsible for committing atrocities.

I recognize that this bill alone will not stop the violence in Darfur. However, it is a step, and an important step. I am hopeful that this will signal the beginning of our increased engagement with this issue.

**THE U.S.-OMAN FREE TRADE
AGREEMENT (H.R. 5684)****HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement, which perpetuates the flawed CAFTA model by sacrificing worker rights and environmental standards for the sake of greater profits for the elite.

American policies should promote global trade that is both fair and free. Trade agreements that meet this standard improve the quality of life for American families by expanding export markets for our products while also providing economic opportunity, human dignity and political stability for workers around the world.

Unfortunately, the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement is another step towards a lowest-common-denominator global economy where sinking labor and environmental standards undermine American competitiveness and global security. The intellectual property provisions of the agreement will hinder the spread of lower priced generic drugs, which could improve public health and stabilize populations in Oman. The agreement's only enforceable labor protection is a requirement that Oman enforce its own labor laws, even though the country's laws fail to comply with basic international labor standards in ten specific areas. Rather than requiring improvements in Oman's labor law, H.R. 5684, accepts unenforceable promises from Oman's government. Even the most basic labor safeguards in this agreement have been crippled: the Bush Administration subverted the will of Congress and stripped out a provision inserted by the Senate Finance Committee stipulating that goods made in Oman with forced labor may not benefit from the trade agreement.

Global trade is the keystone of America's economic success. Expanding trade promotes economic growth in our country and the quest for higher living standards and opportunity abroad. And, as with foreign policy, America's trade policy is an expression of our values and a tool to advance our global vision. Unfortunately, this Oman Free Trade Agreement contradicts America's much-touted commitment to foster global democracy and freedom. If America is to find success in our efforts to spread democracy, serious commitments to the conditions that support democracy: economic stability, environmental sustainability and human dignity. To secure economic prosperity at home and human rights around the world, we in Congress do better than H.R. 5684.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, during the week of September 18, 2006, I was unable to cast recorded votes due to the death of my father and attendance to family matters in Kansas.

On September 19, had I cast my vote on rollcall votes 451, 452, and 453, I would have voted "yes" on each one.

On September 20, had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 454, 455, and 456, I would have voted "no" on each one. Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 457, I would have voted "yes." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 458, I would have voted "yes." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 459, I would have voted "no." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 460, I would have voted "yes."

On September 21, had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 461, I would have voted "no." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 462, I would have voted "no." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 463, I would have voted "yes." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 464, I would have voted "no." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 465, I would have voted "yes." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 466, I would have voted "yes." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 467, I would have voted "yes." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 468, I would have voted "no." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 469, I would have voted "yes." Had I cast my vote on rollcall vote 470, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on May 22, 2006 I missed rollcall vote No. 178 on the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (H.R. 3858). Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of this legislation that requires local and state authorities to consider the needs of people with pets and service animals in disaster planning. Hurricane Katrina taught our Nation many difficult lessons about preparing for a disaster. We now know that many evacuees, who were fleeing the area, were forced to abandon their animals. This bill works to correct these problems by requiring all federal evacuation plans to protect pets. I know how important a role pets play in the lives of many people, and therefore am proud to be both a co-sponsor and full supporter of this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to attend a number of votes that took place Sep-

tember 26, 2006 on the House floor. I take my responsibility to vote very seriously and would like my intentions included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 479, or the Child Custody Protection Act, S. 403; "yea" on rollcall 480, or the Public Expression of Religion Act, H.R. 2679; "yea" on rollcall 481, or the Calling on the President to take immediate steps to help improve the security situation in Darfur, Sudan, with specific emphasis on civilian protection, H. Res. 723; "yea" on rollcall 482, or the Urging the President to appoint a Presidential Special Envoy for Sudan, H. Res. 992; "yea" on rollcall 483, or the Commending the United Kingdom for its efforts in the War on Terror, and for other purposes, H. Res. 989; "yea" on rollcall 484, or the Affirming support for the sovereignty and security of Lebanon and the Lebanese people, H. Res. 1017; "yea" on rollcall 485, or the National Institutes of Health Reform Act, H.R. 6164; and "yea" on rollcall 486, or the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007, H.R. 5631.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE ELECTRONIC
WARFARE CENTER OF EXCEL-
LENCE**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to the Electronic Warfare Center of Excellence at the Naval Air Station, Point Mugu, as it celebrates its 55th anniversary.

Electronic Warfare encompasses the science of denying an enemy the ability to locate, monitor, guide, and communicate within its own offensive and defensive operations, while retaining one's own capabilities. In practical terms, it includes, but is not limited to, the ability of our missiles and aircraft to avoid detection while breaking through the electronic barriers erected by our enemies.

Great Britain's World War II Prime Minister Winston Churchill dubbed this technology the "Wizard War." And for much of Point Mugu's Electronic Warfare Center of Excellence's existence, its work has been shrouded in secrecy accorded wizardry. Much of its work today, in fact, remains sensitive and classified.

However, what is public knowledge is impressive: maintaining the EA-6B, Airborne Electronic Attack platform, optimizing Jammer techniques, developing Mission Planning systems, conducting post-mission processing, and continually updating the worldwide threat database.

The center has generated millions of lines of software code; provides fleet support 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year—including Thanksgiving and Christmas; and fields tens of thousands of help desk calls every year. The men and women who staff Point Mugu's Electronic Warfare Center of Excellence are not only among the most creative, they are also among the most dedicated.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to Point Mugu's Electronic Warfare Center of Excellence and the men and women who have worked diligently behind

the curtain for 55 years to keep our Nation free.

TRIBUTE TO ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. John's Episcopal Church in the Town of Boonton, Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent! On October 21, 2006, the good citizens of Boonton will celebrate St. John's Episcopal Church's 150th Anniversary.

St. John's Episcopal Church was established in 1856, when the Reverend Charles F. Hoffman began holding services at a building on Main Street in Boonton. The Reverend Francis D. Canfield became Rector later that year and was responsible for leading his congregation to finance and build their own church. The plans were drawn by an architect renowned for the designs of such magnificent structures as Trinity Church, Trinity Chapel and St. Thomas' in New York City. The cornerstone of St. John's Church of Boonton was laid on July 8, 1863. The total cost of the building amounted to \$3,600. The building was completed in three months and consecrated on October 13, 1863. Two years later the grounds were graded and enclosed in stone. The Reverend Canfield, in addition to his regular responsibilities, was responsible for raising much of the money needed to build the church.

St. John's is also graced by its E. & G. G. Hook Company Opus 394 pipe organ, which was installed in the north transept in 1893. The organ company was one of the foremost makers of fine pipe organs in the 19th century. The organ has been in continuous service since its installation and is dedicated to Eleanor Bidwell, St. John's organist-choirmaster for 37 years, through 2001.

St. John's continues to be a vital part of the greater Boonton area to this day, hosting regular luncheons for the needy and helping to support the local Cedar Street Community Development Corporation, the Boy Scouts, the Seamen's Church Institute, and the Boonton Food Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. John's Episcopal Church of Boonton on the celebration of its 150 years serving Morris County.

H.R. 4893

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4893, which represents a significant change in federal policy towards tribal governments and grossly undermines tribal sovereignty.

The U.S. Constitution article 1, section 8 acknowledges Indian Tribes as governments, equal to States and Foreign Nations. In recognition of this constitutionally guaranteed